
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Are you one of the elect, chosen before the foundation of the world, to go to heaven?**

Let's read from:

Ephesians 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ**,

If you have your Bible, take a pencil and underline the two words, "in Christ." We have received every spiritual blessing "in Christ."

Ephesians 1:4

4 just as He chose us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Underline the words, "in Him." He chose us "in Him" before the foundation of the world. That's very important.

Ephesians 1:5

5 having predestined **us** to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

So God predestined us. Who are "us"? The "us" in this passage are people who are "in Christ" – where all spiritual blessings are at. God chose those who are "in Christ" to go to heaven. He chose them before He made the world, that they should be "holy and without blame in love."

Ephesians 1:7

7 **In Him** we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Again, underline the words, "in Him." We have redemption. Who has redemption? Those who are "in Christ."

Ephesians 1:11

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Underline the words, "in Him."

The theme of this chapter is that "in Christ" we have all spiritual blessings, we have redemption, we have forgiveness of our sins, we have all the riches of God and He decided before He ever made the world that those who are "in Christ" would go to heaven, have all these blessings, be saved, and stand before Him blameless in love.

Now the question before us is: If all these blessings are for people who are "in Christ," how do we get "in Christ"? You see, God chose the group. How do we become part of that group? How do we get "in Christ" so we can go to heaven?

Galatians 3:26-27

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ.

This shouldn't surprise us. We are saved "by faith" when we get baptized "into Christ."

Mark 16:16

16 "He who **believes** and **is baptized** will be saved; ...

We have to have faith and then be baptized. Galatians 3 says we are sons of God "by faith" when we get baptized into Christ Jesus. Again:

Romans 6:3-4

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were **baptized into Christ Jesus** were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we were **buried with Him through baptism into death**, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

How do we get “into Christ” where there are all spiritual blessings, where there is redemption, and where all the riches of God’s grace are bestowed upon us? How do we get “into Christ”? We’re baptized “into Christ” and “into His death.”

My friend, having faith in Christ and then being baptized “into Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38) is how we become part of God’s chosen, elect group – the group that’s going to heaven – the group that He decided, before He made the earth, was going to go to heaven.

If you’re not part of that group, there is no hope; there is no redemption; there is no promise of eternal life. You have promise, hope, redemption, and blessing only “in Christ” and you get “into Christ” by being baptized for the remission of sins.